

and Rs. 2,900 recovered but not taken to account for want of details of credit. The papers relating to the balance of Rs. 10,000 are stated to have been referred to the Revenue authorities. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to issue needful instructions for the early recovery of the balance of Rs. 10,000. The Director of Agriculture is requested to see that the other sum of Rs. 3,800 above referred to is adjusted without further delay.

(ii) *Implement Depot Dues.*—The arrears due on 30th June 1926, amounted to Rs. 19,485-1-11 out of which Rs. 3812-9-2 was recovered and a sum of Rs. 15,672-8-9 still remained to be recovered. The arrears relating to the Hire Purchase Sales amounted to Rs. 1,752-12-0 on 30th June 1927. This is unsatisfactory. The amounts outstanding in the accounts of the advance sanctioned under the Food Production Scheme and the arrears relating to the sales for credit, of koleroga spraying materials should have been also referred to, in the report. The Director is requested to submit a report to Government immediately on the subject.

10. *General.*—Government note with gratification the interest which the District Boards, particularly the Mysore and Tumkur District Boards, have evinced in the development of agriculture. Government trust that the Village Panchayets will come forward in greater numbers in future years, to co-operate with the Department of Agriculture in its work of promoting agricultural prosperity in the State.

N. RAMA RAO,
Secretary to Government,
Development Departments.

GENERAL SECRETARIAT. AMENDMENT OF GAME LAWS.

READ—

Government Order No. I. C. 251-61—Ft. 352-25-3, dated the 12th July 1926, appointing a Committee consisting of the Conservator of Forests in Mysore and the Deputy Commissioners of Mysore and Shimoga Districts to investigate the causes for the diminution of game in the State, to suggest measures for putting down poaching, for regulating the issue of gun and game licenses and to report on certain other important connected matters.

2. Correspondence ending with letter No. D. 549-26-27—C. 515, dated the 18th October 1926, from the Conservator of Forests in Mysore, forwarding the accompanying report* of the Committee containing its final recommendations in regard to the several matters referred to it in the Government Order read above, in consultation with the District Magistrates of certain districts, the Inspector-General of Police in Mysore, the District Forest Officers of Mysore, and Bhadravati and Messrs. Van Ingen, Theobald and Messrs. John Taylor & Sons.

(* Printed as annexure.)

ORDER No. G. 12144-200—Ft. 179-26-2, DATED 30TH APRIL 1928.

Government noticed that there had been a rapid diminution of game of late years and appointed a Committee to examine the matter and submit recommendations to prevent any further diminution. The Committee has considered the question referred to it and has submitted a carefully thought out report. It considers that the diminution of game in recent years is due partly to the increase of population and to the following avoidable causes :—

- (1) The prevalence of poaching.
- (2) The existence of wild dogs.
- (3) Abuse of liberty granted to private individuals under Section 12 of the Game Regulation.
- (4) The issue of cheap two-rupee licenses in areas where natural conditions are favourable for game.
- (5) Unauthorised netting by villagers.
- (6) *Mola Betay.*—(Periodical and perhaps indiscriminate killing of hares.)
- (7) The trade of Pardees or professional bird catchers.
- (8) The evil habit of catching fish by the use of nets with small meshes.
- (9) The objectionable practice of dynamiting rivers and streams to catch fish which results in the killing of all fish both big and small therein.
- (10) Excluding the tiger from the definition of the term "Game" and offering rewards for killing it.
- (11) The practice of indiscriminate shooting in inam lands and other private large estates.

2. *Poaching*.—Government agree with the Committee that poaching has been largely responsible for depleting the State Forests of tigers and consider that it should be prevented by all possible means. The recommendation of the Committee to put down poaching by the grant of adequate rewards for information leading to its discovery should be given effect to by Magistrates, District Forest Officers and Deputy Commissioners. Government further desire that the higher officers of Revenue, Forest, and Police Departments should make frequent enquiries about poaching and take greater interest in seeing that it is put down and that Game Laws are strictly observed. The co-operation of village Shikaries in putting down poaching may be secured by offering suitable rewards to them for information about poaching. The Chief Conservator of Forests is requested to forward suitable proposals in this direction.

3. *Destruction of Wild Dogs*.—The Committee considers that the system of rewards under the Game Laws is not well known. It doubts if the public are aware, for instance, of the grant of rewards for killing wild dogs and recommends that such rewards should be substantially increased and system given wide publicity. Government agree with this suggestion and are pleased to direct that with a view to the speedy eradication of wild dogs, the rate of the reward for killing wild dogs, be fixed at Rs. 50 for a bitch and Rs. 30 for a dog and that this offer of enhanced rewards be prominently published in the Gazette as well as in the Kannada pamphlet containing the Game rules proposed to be published by the Committee in the concluding portion of its report. These rates will be in force till the close of the official year 1929-30.

4. *Abuse of Liberty under Section 12 of the Game Regulation by Private Individuals*.—Government agree with the Committee in thinking that the privilege conferred on land-holders under Section 12 of the Game Regulation to kill or capture game with a view to ensure protection of crops is being abused. Killing in such cases is altogether unnecessary, scaring away the animals being quite sufficient. In any case, steps should be taken to prevent land owners from pursuing game beyond the limits of their occupied holdings. Killing animals beyond such areas should be made punishable. The Chief Conservator will submit detailed rules.

5. *Inclusion of Tiger in the Definition of Game*.—With a view to prevent indiscriminate destruction of tigers, the principal subject of big game shooting the committee suggests that 'Tiger' be declared game and the offer of rewards for killing tigers be abolished. These suggestions of the Committee commend themselves to Government and they are pleased to direct that necessary further action to give effect to them be taken early.

6. *Issue of Licenses and Measures for Regulating them*.—The Committee is of opinion that undue restrictions need not be placed on the issue of gun licenses which are chiefly intended for self-protection and suggests that the existing fees for Game licenses should be graduated and enhanced with reference to local residents, outside sportsmen, professional shikaries and conductors of shikar parties. The Chief Conservator further suggests the abolition of cheap licenses at Rs. 2 each. The Committee also suggests the abolition of provincial licenses and recommends the grant of separate licenses for big and small game in each district, inclusive of both State and District Forests. The Committee is not unanimous about the authority in whom the power of granting Game licenses may be vested but a suggestion is made that the District Forest Officers may be invested with this power.

7. The recommendations of the Committee referred to above are of great importance. Government agree that it would be undesirable to place undue restrictions on the issue of licenses, but they consider that some restriction is desirable in regard to the nature of the guns used for protecting crops, person and property. They think that the fixing of a limit to the length of the barrel of the gun will not prejudicially affect its usefulness, for the purpose of protecting crops, person and property. It will, at the same time, render the gun ineffective for the destruction of game. The Chief Conservator is requested to submit definite proposals regarding the limit that may be fixed in this matter.

8. The proposals of the Committee in regard to the changes in the scale of fees for the issue of licenses to different classes of applicants are approved subject to the condition that the fee for a license for the whole season will, if granted be double that for one period of the open season. Government concurring with the Chief Conservator of Forests, direct that the issue of provincial licenses as also of cheap licenses at Rs. 2 each be discontinued and that as an experimental measure the authority for the issue of Game licenses be vested henceforth in the District Forest

Officers instead of in the District Magistrates as at present, as the former, being more on the spot and possessing an intimate knowledge of the jungles, are expected to be better able to exercise supervision of game.

9. *Netting by Villagers.*—The suggestion of the Committee to restrict netting to wild boar and panther only is approved. The Police Department will help the Forest Department in the observance of this restriction.

10. *Control of Mola Betay and Bird Catching by Pardees.*—The suggestions of the Committee to stop these practices between 1st May and 1st November in each year are approved.

11. *Burday Bestars.*—The proposal to restrict the use of only one net by each Burday Bestar and to introduce a system of registering the village Bestars living by the side of the main and important rivers, is also approved.

12. *Dynamiting.*—Government, agreeing with the Committee desire to impress on the authorities concerned the need for strictly enforcing the prohibition of dynamiting and the punishing of delinquents. The suggestions of the Committee to institute a system of licenses for fishing in special tracts and stretches of rivers and to prohibit fishing in water sources and reservoirs used for supplying drinking water to cities and towns commend themselves to Government. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to submit suitable proposals in consultation with the Chief Conservator.

13. *Game Shooting in Jaghir and Indm Lands, etc.*—The Publicity Officer is requested to issue a communiqué both in English and Kannada regarding the applicability of the Game Laws to all lands whether public or private within the State and the prohibition of shooting game without a license.

14. The want of legal provision for enforcing payment of royalty on elephant tusks and ivory incidentally brought to notice by the committee will form the subject for separate consideration.

15. *Limiting the bags.*—Government agree with the Committee that the number of heads of game permissible for each license holder to bag should be reduced as recommended by it and that the number of tigers to be shot by each license holder should not ordinarily exceed one.

16. *Periodical Census of Arms.*—Government agree with the Committee that a periodical census of arms should be enforced and that a distinct serial number should be imprinted on the stock of each weapon and direct that the District Magistrates should take necessary action in the matter.

17. *Return of Licenses.*—The suggestions of the Committee to make the licenses returnable with a statement showing the kind and number of game shot and a record of measurements and to make it obligatory on the license holder to give previous intimation before he enters the State Forests for shooting, may be adopted for the better administration of the game rules. A quarterly statement should also be submitted to Government by each District Forest Officer through the Chief Conservator of Forests embodying the following information:—

- (1) Number of present license holders (Gun and Shooting).
- (2) Number of fresh licenses issued.
- (3) Number of licenses cancelled.
- (4) Number of rewards given to informants of poaching and amount spent.
- (5) Number of rewards for wild dogs destroyed, with amount spent.

As regards licenses issued by Deputy Commissioners for the possession of guns, a similar quarterly statement should be submitted by them to Government.

18. *Game Associations.*—Government approve of the suggestion for the constitution of a Game Association in the Mysore District as an experimental measure, on the lines suggested by the Committee.

19. The modification suggested to the regulation and the rules thereunder under the heading "General" of the Committee's Report may be considered along with other amendments that may be necessary. The Legal Remembrancer is requested to take action early for making the necessary amendments to the Game and Fish Preservation Regulation and the Rules thereunder incidental to matters approved above.

20. In conclusion, Government wish to convey their thanks to the members of the Committee for the pains they have taken in investigating the several questions and for the several useful and practical suggestions made by them.

R. RANGA RAO,
General Secretary to Government.